NYSCEF DOC. NO. 143

INDEX NO. 157504/2013

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13-2744

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

AMANDA DIAZ-PASCALL and ALON

PASCALL,

Plaintiffs.

-against-

JOHN S. PEREIRA, IRGANG GROUP, INC., MARK IRGANG and JAY IRGANG,

Defendants.

x Index No.: 157504/13

SUBMISSION OF DEPOSITION TO WITNESS PURSUANT TO CPLR

3116(a)

Pursuant to Section 3116(a) of the Civil Practice Law and Rules, the enclosed deposition transcript of EDWIN MORALES is hereby submitted to the witness for examination and review, and any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered at the end of the transcript with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them.

The enclosed errata sheet should be used for any such changes. The transcript and errata sheets, if any, shall then be signed by the witness before a notary public and then returned to Gannon, Rosenfarb & Drossman at the address below.

If the witness fails to sign and return the transcript within sixty days, it may be used as fully as though signed.

Dated: New York, New York January 20, 2017

By: John H. Shin-

Gannon, Rosenfarb & Drossman

Attorneys for Defendants

Irgang Group, Inc., Mark Irgang and Jay Irgang

100 William Street - 7th Floor

New York, New York 10038

(212) 655-5000

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TO: Law Offices of Tanya Gendelman, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiffs
3033 Brighton 3rd Street - 3rd Floor Brooklyn, New York 11235

White Fleischner & Fino
Attorneys for Defendant in Action 2
Acacia, Inc. a/k/a and d/b/a Basic Housing, Inc.
61 Broadway – 18th Floor
New York, New York 10006

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AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

Benjamin Herpel-Dobay, I the undersigned, being duly sworn, say:

I am not a party to the action, am over 18 years of age and reside in the State of New York.

On January 23 2017 I served a true copy SUBMISSION OF DEPOSITION TO WITNESS PURSUANT TO CPLR 3116(a) upon the parties listed below, placing same in a properly addressed and stamped envelope and depositing same in a United States Post Office mail box within the State of New York addressed to:

Law Offices of Tanya Gendelman, P.C. 3033 Brighton 3rd Street - 3rd Floor Brooklyn, New York 11235

White Fleischner & Fino 61 Broadway – 18th Floor New York, New York 10006

Benjamin Herpel Dobay

Sworn before me this 33 day of January, 2017

Ann M. Martin Notary Public, State of New York No. 01MS892018 Qualified in Queens County

Qualified in Queens County

Commission Expires May 28, 2019

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1	
2	SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
	COUNTY OF NEW YORK
3	X
	AMANDA DIAZ-PASCALL AND ALON PASCALL,
4	
	PLAINTIFF(s),
5	
	-against- Index No:
6	157504/13
7	JOHN S. PEREIRA, IRGANG GROUP INC.,
	MARK IRGANG AND JAY IRGANG, ACACIA, INC.
8	a/k/a and d/b/a BASIC HOUSING, INC.,
9	DEFENDANT(s).
	X
10	
11	
12	EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL of the
13	Defendant, ACACIA, INC., a/k/a and d/b/a
14	BASIC HOUSING, INC., BY: EDWIN MORALES, taken
15	by the Respective Parties, pursuant to a
16	Court Order, held at the offices of WHITE,
17	FLEISCHNER & FINO, LLP, 61 Broadway, New
18	York, New York, on January 13, 2017 at 10:30
19	a.m., before Renee M. DeCarlos, a Notary
20	Public of the State of New York.
21	
22	Gannon, Rosenfarb & Drossmar
23	JAN 2 0 2017
24	
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1		
2	A P P	E A R A N C E S:
3		
4		LAW OFFICES OF TANYA GENDELMAN, P.C.
		Attorneys for the Plaintiffs
5		3033 Brighton 3rd Street
		Brooklyn, New York 11235
6		- ·
		BY: LAWRENCE LEWIS, ESQ.
7		File #: 03567
8		
9		GANNON, ROSENFARB, BALLETTI
		& DROSSMAN, LLP
10		Attorneys for the Defendants
		IRGANG GROUP INC., MARK IRGANG &
11		JAY IRGANG
		100 William Street - 7th Floor
12		New York, New York 10038
13		BY: JOHN SHIN, ESQ.
14		
15		WHITE, FLEISCHNER & FINO, LLP
		Attorneys for the Defendants
16		ACACIA, INC. $a/k/a$ and $d/b/a$
		BASIC HOUSING, INC.
17		61 Broadway - 18th Floor
		New York, New York 10006
18		
		BY: SHELLY WERBEL, ESQ.
19		
20		
		ALSO PRESENT:
21		JANESSA COLLADO, ESQ.
22		xxxxx
23		
24		
25		

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2	221. UNIFORM RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF DEPOSITIONS
3	CONDUCT OF DEPOSITIONS
J	221.1 Objections at Depositions
4	(a) Objections in general. No objections
-	shall be made at a deposition except those
5	which, pursuant to subdivision (b), (c) or
	(d) of Rule 3115 of the Civil Practice Law
6	and Rules, would be waived if not interposed,
	and except in compliance with subdivision (e)
7	of such rule. All objections made at a
	deposition shall be noted by the officer
8	before whom the deposition is taken, and the
-	answer shall be given and the deposition
9	shall proceed subject to the objections and
10	to the right of a person to apply for
LU	appropriate relief pursuant to Article 31 of the CPLR.
<u>l 1</u>	(b) Speaking objections restricted. Every
	objection raised during a deposition shall be
12	stated succinctly and framed so as not to
	suggest an answer to the deponent and, at the
13	request of the questioning attorney, shall
	include a clear statement as to any defect in
14	form or other basis of error or irregularity.
	Except to the extent permitted by CPLR Rule
15	3115 or by this rule, during the course of
16	the examination persons in attendance shall not make statements or comments that
1, 0	interfere with the questioning.
17	221.2 Refusal to answer when objection is
	made. A deponent shall answer all questions
18	at a deposition, except (i) to preserve a
	privilege or right of confidentiality, (ii)
19	to enforce a limitation set forth in an order
	of the court, or (iii) when the question is
20	plainly improper and would, if answered,
21	cause significant prejudice to any person. An attorney shall not direct a deponent not
<u> </u>	to answer except as provided in CPLR Rule
22	3115 or this subdivision. Any refusal to
	answer or direction not to answer shall be
23	accompanied by a succinct and clear statement
	of the basis therefor. If the deponent does
24	not answer a question, the examining party
~ =	shall have the right to complete the
25	remainder of the deposition.

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4 1 2 221. UNIFORM RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF DEPOSITIONS 3 221.3 Communication with the deponent An attorney shall not interrupt the 4 deposition for the purpose of communicating with the deponent unless all parties consent 5 or the communication is made for the purpose of determining whether the question should 6 not be answered on the grounds set forth in section 221.2 of these rules and, in such 7 event, the reason for the communication shall be stated for the record succinctly and 8 clearly. 9 10 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that the transcript may be signed before any 11 Notary Public with the same force and effect as if signed before a clerk or a Judge of the 12 court. 13 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that 14 the examination before trial may be utilized for all purposes as provided by the CPLR. 15 16 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that all rights provided to all parties by the CPLR cannot be deemed waived and the 17 appropriate sections of the CPLR shall be 18 controlling with respect hereto. 19 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED by 20 and between the attorneys for the respective parties hereto that a copy of this examination shall be furnished, without 21 charge, to the attorneys representing the 22 witness testifying herein. 23 XXXXX 24

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- 2 EDWIN MORALES,
- Having been first duly sworn before a 3
- Notary Public of the State of New York, 4
- was examined and testified as follows: 5
- 6 EXAMINATION BY
- 7 MR. LEWIS:
- 8 Please state your name for the record.
- 9 Edwin Morales.
- 10 Q. Please state your address for the
- 11 record.
- 12 22 Putnam Park Road, Bethel, Connecticut
- 06801. 13
- 14 Q. Good morning, Mr. Morales. My name is
- 15 Lawrence Lewis. I represent the Plaintiff in
- 16 this matter, Ms. Amanda Diaz pass Cal I'm
- 17 going to question you about an accident
- 18 taking place on October 21, 2011 at a shelter
- 19 located on 125th Street.
- 20 If you do not understand or hear me,
- 21 tell me. I will try and rephrase or repeat
- 22 If I ask you, wait until I'm done and
- 23 also all your answers have be to oral. You
- 24 cannot gesture, nod, anything like that. If
- 25 you need to take a break, tell us. If you

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E.	Morales

- 2 want to speak with your Counsel before you
- 3 answer, you certainly can do so, either
- outside my presence or just whisper in her 4
- 5 ear.
- 6 MS. WERBEL: You can nod. You can
- 7 gesture, but a word has got to go along
- 8 with it because the court reporter can
- 9 only take down what we say, not
- 10 mannerisms or hand gestures.
- 11 Sir, how long have you lived at the
- 12 address you gave us in Bethel?
- 13 Α. About three years.
- 14 Ο. Is that a house or apartment?
- 15 Α. It's a house.
- 16 Q. Do you currently live there with anyone?
- 17 Α. Yes, my wife and kids.
- 18 What is your wife's name? Q.
- 19 Α. Jenny Morales.
- 20 And before you lived at that address, Q.
- 21 where did you live before that?
- 22 Α. 86 Haven Avenue.
- 23 Q. What town is that?
- That's in New York, New York. 24 Α.
- 25 Q. How long did you live there, about?

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1	E. Morales	

- 2 Maybe over 10 years or more. A.
- 3 Q. Okay, and did you also live there with
- 4 your wife and kids at that address?
- 5 Α. Yes, yes.
- MS. WERBEL: You have to let him 6
- 7 finish asking his question before you
- 8 begin an answer. Sometimes one word at
- the end of a sentence, even though you 9
- 10 think you know what he's asking, can
- 11 change a whole question.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 13 That Haven address, was that an
- 14 apartment or a house?
- 15 Α. Apartment.
- 16 Where you live now, is that an apartment
- 17 or a house?
- 18 Α. It's a house.
- 19 Q. Do you own that house or you rent it?
- 20 Α. We own it, yes.
- 21 Now can I ask you your date of birth, Q.
- 22 sir?
- 23 Α. XX/XX/71.
- 24 MS. WERBEL: Only put the year in
- 25 the record, please.

25

Q.

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8 E. Morales 1 Can I have your Social Security number? 2 Q. MS. WERBEL: He's here on behalf of 3 his employer. I don't know why you need 4 5 the Social Security number. MR. LEWIS: It doesn't matter. 6 Τf 7 there is a trial and I need to subpoena 8 him, I'd like the Social Security 9 number. If you want to instruct him not 10 to answer, be my quest. 11 MS. WERBEL: I don't see why you 12 need his Social Security number. You 13 have his address. MR. LEWIS: I would like the Social 14 15 Security number, Counselor. Are you 16 going to instruct him not to answer? 17 MS. WERBEL: Last four only on the record. You can give the last four. 18 Α. 3332. 19 20 MR. LEWIS: Fair enough. 21 0. Where do you presently work, sir? 22 Α. Where I presently work? 23 Q. Yeah. Acacia Housing Network. 24 Α.

Is that the same thing as Basic Housing?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. Yes.
- How long have you worked for them? 3 Q.
- Eleven years. 4 Α.
- 5 What is your present title with them? Ο.
- 6 A. Director of operations.
- 7 Q. As director of operations, what are your
- 8 duties and responsibilities?
- 9 Supervise maintenance men and
- facilities. 10
- 11 Q. Now when you supervise maintenance men,
- is that maintenance men your employer picks 12
- 13 or maintenance men that Irgang picks?
- MR. SHIN: Objection to form. 14
- 15 Who hires the maintenance men? Q.
- 16 Α. Acacia.
- 17 And are these maintenance men employed
- 18 full time or part time?
- 19 Α. Full time.
- 20 Do you know the names of any of them? Q.
- 21 Α. Yes.
- 22 Can you tell us the ones you're familiar
- 23 with?
- Louis DeLeon, David Johnson, Louis 24
- 25 Rivera, Jason Hodge and I can't recall the

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<u>1</u>	E.	Morale
÷	1 ·	

- 2 rest.
- Okay, and do you remember any of them 3
- that were employed by Basic Housing as of 4
- 5 10/21/11?
- 6 No, I can't recall.
- 7 Okay. Ο.
- 8 MR. LEWIS: Can you read back his
- 9 duties and responsibilities, what he
- 10 said to that?
- 11 (Whereupon, the record was read back
- 12 by the court reporter.)
- 13 What do you mean by "supervise Q.
- 14 facilities"?
- 15 A. We make sure all the units is up kept
- 16 and safe for our clients.
- 17 Now did you have the same title,
- responsibilities back in 10/21/11? 18
- 19 I might have been a housing manager
- 20 then.
- 21 MR. SHIN: What was that answer, I'm
- 22 sorry?
- 23 (Whereupon, the record was read back
- 24 by the court reporter.)
- 25 If you were a housing manager, what were Q.

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- E. Morales 1
- your duties and responsibilities as a housing 2
- 3 manager?
- Α. Basically almost the same thing.
- 5 Okay, and did your duties involve
- 6 inspecting the individual apartment units?
- 7 Α. Yes.
- 8 And would that be inspecting the hallway
- 9 and stairways?
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 And did you do that to more than one
- 12 facility or one, 125th?
- 13 MS. WERBEL: You're talking about
- 14 October 2011?
- 15 MR. LEWIS: Yes, everything is that
- 16 date.
- 17 Did I supervise more than that one
- 18 facility in 2011?
- 19 Well, I will get to that, but as a
- 20 housing supervisor or your other title, did
- 21 you periodically inspect the building located
- 22 at 125th?
- 23 Α. Yes.
- 24 Would that include hallways and
- 25 stairways and other common areas?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. How often would you do that, basically,
- 4 generally?
- 5 A. Maybe once a week.
- 6 Q. Okay, and that was regardless of whether
- 7 there was a complaint by a tenant about those
- 8 areas, correct?
- 9 MS. WERBEL: Objection to form.
- 10 Q. Would you do that regardless of whether
- 11 there was a complaint about the stairways or
- 12 hallways?
- 13 A. No, we just randomly pick different
- 14 facilities to inspect, yes.
- 15 Q. Now did Basic have responsibility to
- 16 maintain other shelters for the homeless?
- MS. WERBEL: Objection to the form
- of that. Why don't you just ask about
- other buildings or premises?
- 20 A. Right, because you say, "shelters,"
- 21 there is more different shelters.
- 22 Q. Okay, the building 125th, was that a
- 23 shelter for homeless people?
- 24 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And were you involved with other

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E. Morales

- 2 facilities that Basic Housing ran?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. How many back then? Would you say more
- 5 than five, less than five?
- 6 A. Yeah, more than five.
- 7 O. More than 25?
- 8 A. About, yes.
- 9 Q. And that included about 150 apartments,
- 10 individual apartments?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And did these all house homeless people
- 13 or different types of people?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. Which?
- 16 A. Well, both because we have facilities
- 17 that occupy shelters and regular residents,
- 18 rent-paying people.
- 19 Q. Okay, and of the one at 125th, was that
- 20 a shelter or regular residence?
- 21 A. That was all shelter families.
- 22 Q. And the other say 25, were those mostly
- 23 shelter or other types of residents, if you
- 24 know?
- 25 A. It's the same. I just answered that. I

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 was responsible for shelter apartments.
- 3 were completely shelter and some was half
- 4 shelter and not shelter.
- Q. Okay, and can you tell me out of that 5
- 150 apartments, approximately, how many were 6
- non-shelter? 7
- 8 No, I can't, I'm sorry.
- More than half, less than half? 9 0.
- 10 Α. I can't.
- Okay, fair enough. And did you also 11
- 12 periodically inspect these other apartments
- that were the shelters or regular apartment 13
- 14 complexes.
- 15 All right, when you say inspect others,
- 16 you mean just the shelter or the non-paying?
- 17 I'm talking about, you said that 125th Q.
- was a shelter. You also said that Basic ran 18
- 19 about 25 other buildings and some were
- 20 shelters and some were other tenants?
- 21 Right, it was mixed. We don't run
- 22 facilities that are rent-paying people.
- 23 have a facility of, let's just say 100 units,
- we may have 25 units which may belong to 24
- 25 Acaçia. The other 75 is just other

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 rent-paying people. We have nothing to do
- with those units. All we supervise, all we 3
- maintain is the 25 units that we have in that
- facility. That's all we are responsible for, 5
- 6 the units, not the building, not nothing.
- 7 Oh, the individual apartments?
- 8 Α. Yes.
- 9 And one apartment may have regular
- tenants and also shelter tenants? 10
- 11 One building may have regular
- 12 rent-paying people and it has shelter, yes.
- 13 Okay, let's focus in on the building we
- 14 are talking about, the one at 125th. Do you
- 15 know if they were all shelter?
- 16 They was all shelter, yes.
- 17 And how many tenants back then lived Q.
- 18 there, if you can recollect?
- 19 Tenants, there is only about eight
- 20 people in that facility.
- 21 Q. Okay, and the first floor was a store,
- 22 correct?
- 23 No, there is no store on the first
- 24 floor. That facility started at the second
- 25 and the third. You start from the landing to

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- E. Morales 1
- the second floor to the third floor. 2
- What is on the first floor? 3
- When you first walk into the facility
- there's nothing. It's a lobby, a small 5
- 6 lobby.

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- 7 Q. Okay, do you remember which floor Ms.
- Diaz lived on? 8
- A. I don't recall. 9
- Q. How did you become aware of this 10
- lawsuit? 11
- 12 A. Deposition.
- 13 Q. Is that the first time you heard of it,
- this deposition? 14
- 15 Α. Yes.
- So prior to this deposition, you don't 16
- 17 recall hearing of any accident regarding
- Amanda Diaz-Pascall? 18
- 19 A. I don't recall.
- 20 Do you know if there was an
- 21 investigation made into that accident by
- 22 Basic?
- A. I don't recall. 23
- 24 Is Basic also called Alcadia Basic Inc.?
- Is that another name they use? 25

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 Say that again. Α.
- Is the name Basic Housing, Inc., are 3 0.
- they also known as Alcadia Basic, Inc.? 4
- 5 MS. WERBEL: Alcadia?
- 6 Acacia. It's Acacia. It was just
- transformed into Acacia. It was just Basic,
- but they took over, I don't know how long, 8
- 9 and they became a entity.
- 10 How recently was it renamed to Acacia? Q.
- 11 Α. I don't know.
- 12 Within the last year or two? Q.
- 13 Α. No, maybe longer than that, but I can't
- 14 tell you what month or year.
- 15 Ο. But not as of 10/21/11?
- 16 Α. No.
- 17 Now if a tenant in that building had a
- 18 complaint about the hallway or stairway,
- 19 would they have to report to a building at
- 20 131?
- 21 Α. Yes.
- 22 And was that Basic's office at the time? Q.
- 23 Α. Yes.
- 24 Are they still there? Q.
- 25 Α. No.

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- 1 E. Morales
- Q. Where is their office these days?
- 3 A. I don't know where it's at. I'm no
- 4 longer in that site.
- 5 Q. Okay, do you report to their
- 6 headquarters nowadays?
- 7 A. Am I still a part of Acacia? Yes.
- 8 Q. Where is your office?
- 9 A. My personal office is at 555 Hutchinson
- 10 River Parkway.
- 11 Q. In the City?
- 12 A. No, it's in the Bronx.
- 13 Q. Okay, so they also have buildings in the
- 14 Bronx?
- 15 A. Acacía?
- 16 Q. Yes.
- 17 A. Absolutely.
- 18 Q. When you previously said, "25
- 19 buildings," would those include in the Bronx?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And besides the Bronx and the City, did
- 22 they have buildings in any other location?
- 23 A. Queens, Brooklyn.
- Q. Okay, Staten Island?
- 25 A. No.

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- E. Morales 1
- Q. Okay, but the four other boroughs in the 2
- 3 City?
- 4 Α. Yes.
- 5 Now they entered into a contract with
- 6 the City of New York to house the homeless
- 7 people at 125th, correct?
- 8 I assume so.
- 9 MS, WERBEL: This is only what you
- 10 know. I don't want you to guess.
- 11 THE WITNESS: That's why I said I
- don't know. 12
- 13 Α. That's above my pay rate.
- 14 Did Irgang enter into a contract with
- 15 Basic to provide certain management or
- 16 maintenance of the 125th building?
- 17 Α. Say that again.
- 18 Did Basic have a written contract with 0.
- 19 Irgang to provide maintenance of the 125th
- 20 building?
- 21 Α. No.
- 22 Did Basic use Irgang to do repairs of
- 23 hallways, stairways or other common areas?
- 24 Α. No.
- Was there any relationship back then 25 0.

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 with Irgang and Basic?
- 3 A. They have a contract. I don't know. I
- 4 can't say. I'm not sure.
- 5 Q. Who has a contract? Okay, was Irgang,
- 6 were they instructed by Basic back then to do
- 7 any needed repairs in the hallways and
- 8 stairways?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. Have you heard of Irgang?
- 11 A. Yeah, I have heard of Irgang.
- 12 Q. Do they still have a relationship with
- 13 Basic Housing?
- 14 A. We have some of his facilities, yes.
- Q. What is the nature of the relationship?
- 16 A. We rent out some of his units, his
- 17 building for a shelter.
- 18 Q. For Irgang?
- 19 A. Yes, but any relationship, I can't tell
- 20 you. That's above my pay rate. I don't deal
- 21 when it comes to contracts and relationships.
- 22 I don't have anything to do with that.
- Q. I was under the impression, you can
- 24 correct me if I'm wrong, if there is a
- 25 problem with the hallways or stairways in

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 that building, you would instruct Irgang to
- take care of it, to repair it? 3
- 4 Anything structural, yes, we would
- 5 report to any landlord facility and let them
- 6 know that they had to do something structural
- 7 and they was responsible for it.
- 8 And who would give Irgang its
- 9 instruction to do that?
- 10 I made the phone call, yes.
- 11 Do you remember back then and the year
- 12 before if you ever called Irgang to do some
- 13 repairs to the building?
- 14 MS. WERBEL: You're talking about
- 15 before October 2011?
- 16 MR. LEWIS: Yes.
- For this accident, no, I don't recall. 17 Α.
- 18 What about generally? 0.
- 19 Excuse me? Α.
- 20 Q. What about generally?
- 21 Yeah, I always call. Α.
- What kind of repairs did you instruct 22
- them to do? 23
- 24 Whatever they're responsible to do in
- 25 the units.

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- 1 E. Morales
- Q. What are they responsible to do?
- 3 A. Air conditioning, falling ceiling,
- 4 anything that has to do with structural.
- 5 Q. Okay, and that would be in the apartment
- 6 and outside of it?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And they would hire the people to do the
- 9 repairs or Basic would?
- 10 A. Irgang has his own guys to do repairs,
- 11 yes.
- 12 Q. And did you have to approve the person
- 13 they used to do the repairs?
- 14 A. I don't approve, no.
- 15 Q. They're just there?
- 16 A. Yes, I report it to him and he sends
- 17 someone there that he pays to fix it.
- 18 Q. And did Irgang have an office in 125th
- 19 or 131st?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. And the way this works is once there was
- 22 a complaint by the tenant, then someone would
- 23 get in touch with Irgang to take care of the
- 24 repair?
- 25 A. No, the process is if a client makes a

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- E. Morales 1
- complaint, they go to the caseworker. 2
- 3 Caseworker then makes the complaint to the
- 4 maintenance department.
- 5 At 131st? ٥.
- 6 No, that's the social service
- department. 131st is just social services. 7
- 8 That's not the maintenance office.
- 9 Where is the maintenance office? ٥.
- 10 Α. It's in 819 East 178th Street.
- 11 And when you say, "caseworker," are they
- 12 social workers?
- 13 We know them as caseworkers. I don't Α.
- 14 know.
- 15 So you're saying a tenant with a
- 16 complaint about their apartment could not
- 17 make the complaint directly to Basic?
- 18 Α. To the maintenance department? When you'
- 19 say, "Basic," you're generalizing the
- 20 company. It's just the department. So, no,
- 21 they don't directly make a complaint to us.
- 22 MR. SHIN: Which maintenance
- 23 department are you referring to?
- THE WITNESS: To Acacia. 24
- 25 Now the building itself has three Q.

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 floors, you said, correct?
- Two. 3 Α.
- 4 Ο. Two?
- 5 A. Yes.
- And in order to get to the apartments 6 Q.
- with the number three in that building --7
- 8 I can't recall.
- 9 There is a second, third floor with Q.
- 10 apartments?
- 11 No, it's just two floors there.
- 12 And what are the floors, first and
- 13 second floor?
- 14 It's second and third.
- 15 Q. So there is no first floor?
- 16 Ä. No.
- And how many steps do you go up to get 17
- to the second floor? 18
- 19 A. I don't know. I never counted the
- 20 steps.
- 21 More than ten, less than ten?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- 23 Q. And once you get to the second floor, is
- 24 there a landing and then another set of steps
- to the third floor or is it a continuous set 25

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 of steps to the third floor?
- 3 A. It's a landing.
- Q. And is there another set of steps that
- 5 take you to the third floor?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Is it the same number of steps that's go
- 8 from the second?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. Do you have any idea of the number of
- 11 steps?
- 12 A. No, I really don't. I don't count
- 13 steps, I'm sorry.
- 14 Q. Well, you have been there plenty of
- 15 times before.
- 16 A. I still never made that a part of my
- 17 job, I apologize. If we had an elevator I
- 18 could tell you how many floors I went up.
- Q. Was there an elevator in the building?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. Now these floors, are they the steps?
- 22 Do they have some tile on them or coating?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. What type of tile or coating?
- 25 A. They have rubber.

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 Q. Okay?
- 3 MS. WERBEL: And you're talking
- 4 about in October of 2011?
- 5 MR. LEWIS: Yes, everything is as of
- 6 that day.
- 7 Q. And in front of the apartments
- 8 themselves, is there also a rubber strip?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. A rubber step?
- 11 A. No. In front of the apartment? No.
- 12 Q. In front of the door?
- 13 A. In front of the door? No.
- 14 Q. Nothing?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Do you have any recollection back then
- 17 within, let's say, one year before whether
- 18 the social workers, caseworkers made
- 19 complaints about that building?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. No recollection? If a tenant or a
- 22 caseworker made a complaint back then, would
- 23 a report be written down?
- 24 A. Yes, it was an e-mail sent.
- 25 Q. It was what?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. An e-mail.
- 3 O. An e-mail was sent to the tenant?
- 4 A. No, the caseworker would send the e-mail
- 5 to the office, yes.
- 6 Q. And it was not recorded in a book?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. Once the repair was made, was that
- 9 written down or memorialized?
- 10 A. It was a work order, yes.
- 11 Q. Are those work orders for that period
- 12 still in existence?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. So once a work order is completed, there
- is no record kept of the work order
- 16 completed?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Is there any record of Basic receiving a
- 19 complaint about the stairway or hallways back
- 20 then?
- 21 A. No, I don't recall.
- Q. Did they generally keep records back
- 23 then? Did they generally keep records of
- 24 complaints about the condition of a stairway
- 25 or hallway?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. No, I don't recall that.
- 3 Q. What about problems in the apartment
- 4 itself?
- 5 A. What?
- 6 Q. Problems in the apartment itself?
- 7 A. Problems?
- 8 Q. Yes, was there records kept of that back
- 9 then?
- 10 A. They do inspections, but I don't know
- 11 what the caseworkers do with that when they
- 12 do inspections.
- 13 Q. Well, when you inspected this building
- 14 the year prior to 10/21/11, did you know of
- 15 any defective conditions?
- 16 A. Not that I recall, no.
- 17 Q. Do you recall any problems with the
- 18 hallway or stairways?
- 19 A. No, I don't recall.
- 20 Q. Do you recall any of the rubber tiles
- 21 lifting up?
- 22 A. I don't recall.
- 23 Q. Are you familiar with a tenant in that
- 24 building at that time by the name of Ronetta
- 25 Cooper on the third floor of the building?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Did she, to your recollection, ever go
- 4 to the building at 131st to report a problem
- 5 with the hallway or stairways?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Now if a tenant wanted to report a
- 8 problem with the interior of her apartment or
- 9 his apartment, who would they go to to report
- 10 it?
- 11 A. To the office on 131st.
- 12 Q. And the same thing if they saw a problem
- 13 with the rubber flooring on the stairways or
- 14 hallways?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Did you ever see any of those rubber
- 17 tiles lifting up --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- during your inspections?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Do you remember a Spanish woman living
- 22 in the building at that time?
- 23 A. That's a general question.
- Q. Yeah, I'm asking a general question.
- 25 A. I don't know how to answer that because

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 I don't recall.
- 3 MS. WERBEL: Do you have a better
- description than a Spanish woman? 4
- That lived on the third floor. 5 Q.
- No, I don't recall. 6 Α.
- 7 Do you know which floor Ms. Diaz lived Ο.
- 8 on?
- 9 I don't know Ms. Diaz, I'm sorry. Α.
- 10 Q. Did you ever step on one of these rubber
- 11 tiles to push it down into place?
- 12 Α. I don't understand the question.
- 13 Well, did you put your foot on any of 0.
- 14 these rubber tiles that lifted up to put it
- 15 back in place?
- 16 MS. WERBEL: He already testified he
- 17 never saw a rubber tile lifted up.
- 18 Are you aware of any accidents involving
- 19 the hallway or the stairway in that building
- 20 prior to the day we are talking about?
- 21 Α. I don't recall, no.
- 22 Q. You don't recall whether there were any?
- 23 No, I don't. Α.
- Is Irgang Group still working with 24
- 25 basic?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And does Irgang do the repairs to the
- 4 hallways and stairways, generally?
- 5 MS, WERBEL: To which building?
- 6 MR. LEWIS: To 125.
- 7 MR. SHIN: Objection to the form.
- 8 A. Is he responsible for the facility?
- 9 Q. No, I'll try again. Irgang.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did they only do repairs involving the
- 12 hallways?
- 13 A. Yes.
- MR. SHIN: Objection.
- 15 Q. And stairways?
- MS. WERBEL: He already testified
- they also do repairs if there was an air
- 18 conditioner involved or a ceiling came
- down. He did testify to that.
- MR. LEWIS: That Irgang did that?
- MS. WERBEL: Yes.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So Irgang did repairs in and outside the
- 24 apartment?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 E. Morales
- Q. And Basic also did repairs, correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Inside and outside the apartment?
- 5 A. Yes, inside the apartment, we repair
- 6 inside units.
- 7 Q. So what was the need for Irgang to go
- 8 inside the units?
- 9 A. Anything structural, anything structural
- 10 they're responsible for, anything like the
- 11 air conditioners, anything like a major
- 12 ceiling leak, the ceiling fell down. Acacia
- 13 is not responsible for that. We just do
- 14 basic maintenance. Anything that has to do
- 15 more than that, the landlord is responsible,
- 16 not just Irgang.
- 17 Q. And hallways and stairways, would that
- 18 be primarily the responsibility of Irgang or
- 19 Basic to repair?
- MR. SHIN: Objection to form.
- 21 A. Irgang.
- Q. Now once Irgang made a repair, would you
- 23 stop by to inspect to make sure it was done
- 24 properly?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- E. Morales 1
- Q. And did you ever tell Irgang they forgot 2
- something or it wasn't done right? 3
- 4 I can't recall, no.
- Q. Now this building was owned by an LLC 5
- 6 that eventually went bankrupt; is that
- 7 correct?
- A. I don't know.
- 9 These other 25 buildings you talked
- about, were they also owned by LLCs? 10
- 11 A. I don't know.
- 12 Q. Was Basic paid a nightly fee for shelter
- 1.3 tenants that were put in that building?
- 14 A. I don't know.
- 15 If I told you \$57 a night, would that
- 16 refresh your memory?
- 17 I don't know. That's not my department.
- I'm a maintenance man. I'm not accounting. 18
- 19 Do you know what Irgang was paid to do
- 20 repairs?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Did they charge by the hour? Q.
- 23 Α. I don't know.
- 24 MR. SHIN: Just note my objection.
- I don't know. 25 Α.

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 Q. Were they on a yearly retainer in that
- 3 building to do repairs?
- 4 I don't know. I just report to them.
- 5 That's it.
- 6 What do you report to them about?
- 7 Α. If there is any major issues, that's it.
- 8 Do you remember a year before this
- 9 accident whether there were any major issues
- you reported to them? 10
- 11 Α. I can't recall.
- 12 Did you report some even though you
- 13 don't recall?
- 14 A. I don't recall.
- 15 Was there a contract between Irgang and
- 16 Basic for repairs in that building?
- 17 Α. I don't know.
- MR. LEWIS: Note my objection. 18
- 19 Did Irgang or Basic ever agree to make
- 20 repairs on the hallways or stairways to that
- 21 building?
- 22 Say that again.
- 23 Q. Did Irgang or Basic ever agree to make
- 24 repairs on the hallways or stairways of that
- 25 building?

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- E. Morales 1
- I wouldn't know that. 2 Α.
- MS. WERBEL: Objection to form. 3
- MR. LEWIS: Can I have these marked. 4
- 5 (Photographs marked Plaintiff's
- Exhibits 1 through 6 for identification, 6
- 7 as of today's date.)
- I will show you what has been marked as 8
- Exhibit 1. Does this depict accurately and 9
- truly depict the type of rubber flooring that 10
- 11 was on the hallway and the stairways back on
- 12 that date in the building?
- Does this, the mat that's on there? 13 Α.
- 14 ο. Was that the type, you testified there
- 15 was a rubber mat?
- 16 Yes, but this one looks like somebody
- 17 lift something.
- 18 It looks like what?
- 19 It looks like someone lifted this and I
- 20 don't want to say this is the way it was
- 21 because I can't recall.
- 22 Q. You never saw one of these rubber tiles
- 23 lifted?
- 24 Α. No.
- 25 Q. You don't remember or --

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 MR. SHIN: Objection.
- 3 A. No, I don't recall no rubber tiles
- 4 lifted. I know there is the tile, there's
- 5 the rubber, but not lifted.
- 6 Q. Do you remember when --
- 7 MS. WERBEL: You're interrupting his
- 8 answer.
- 9 MR. LEWIS: No, I'm not.
- 10 MS. WERBEL: Did you want to add
- 11 something further?
- 12 THE WITNESS: No.
- 13 Q. Did you ever notice one of those tiles
- 14 lifted during your inspections in the one
- 15 year prior to 10/21/11?
- 16 A. In that facility?
- 17 Q. In 125.
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Never saw one lifted?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. So that looks like the rubber tiles
- 22 except you never saw one lifted; would that
- 23 be correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And was a rubber tile in front of

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 apartment doors on the second or third floors
- 3 of the building?
- MR. SHIN: Note my objection. 4
- No, there is no rubber tiles in front of 5
- 6 the doors.
- 7 Is there anything in front of the doors
- 8 that you have to step on or over to enter?
- 9 A floor. A floor you have to step on.
- 10 Was any of these tiles set back a
- 11 distance from the door of an apartment?
- 12 No, I don't recall. I don't recall
- 13 that.
- 14 Well, was laid down in the hallway,
- 15 correct?
- 16 Yes. Α.
- 17 MS. WERBEL: The rubber tiles in the
- 18 hallway?
- It's on the stair landings. It's on the 19
- 20 landings, not in the hallways, the landing.
- 21 But it's also on the steps, correct? Q.
- 22 Α. Yes.
- 23 And the landing? Q.
- 24 Α. Yes.
- 25 Q. And the landing, in order to go into the

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 apartments on the second floor, you'd step on
- 3 the landing and then go forward or back
- 4 depending on where the apartment is, correct?
- 5 A. You step on the floor, another floor,
- 6 yes.
- 7 Q. Right, but are these rubber tiles on the
- 8 landing between the second and third floor?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And in order to go into the apartment on
- 11 the second or third floor, you'd step over
- 12 these rubber tiles, correct? You go on the
- 13 landing which had rubber tiles, correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And from that landing you could enter
- 16 into one of the apartments, correct?
- MS. WERBEL: Are you asking can you
- 18 enter the apartments directly from the
- 19 landing or does the landing lead to a
- 20 hallway that might have a different
- 21 doors.
- Q. Can you enter the apartment directly
- 23 from the landing?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. How would you enter the apartment?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. You would walk into the hallway. It's a
- 3 hallway.
- 4 Q. From the landing?
- 5 A. You step into a hallway, yes.
- 6 Q. And that hallway, does that have these
- 7 rubber tiles?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 O. Just a wood floor?
- 10 A. No, it's ceramic tiles.
- 11 Q. Did you ever notice any problems with
- 12 those ceramic tiles in the hallway within the
- 13 year prior to this date?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Now Exhibit 2 also has rubber tiles.
- 16 Can you tell me if it shows anything else in
- 17 that photo?
- 18 A. The one that looks like somebody pulled
- 19 back, you're saying?
- 20 Q. No, I said number two. Look at the
- 21 numbers.
- 22 A. The numbers?
- Q. It says," Exhibit 2"?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. It has the rubber tiles. Does it have

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굔	Morales
Ľ.	MOTGTES

- 2 anything else you recognize in that photo?
- 3 MS. WERBEL: Do you know what is
- 4 depicted in that photo?
- 5 A. Someone standing there.
- 6 MS. WERBEL: He is pointing off to
- 7 the right side of the photograph.
- 8 A. Somebody standing there.
- 9 Q. Are you asking or you see someone?
- 10 A. It looks like someone is standing there.
- 11 Q. And, again, there rubber tiles lifted;
- 12 do you see it?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. You never saw it lifted like it is in
- 15 number two, correct?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. And to the left as you look at this
- 18 photo, do you know what that is?
- 19 A. That's a step.
- MS. WERBEL: Well, that's to his
- 21 right. You're pointing to your left.
- 22 It's his right.
- 23 A. It's a step.
- Q. And number three would be rubber tiles
- 25 and a step again, correct?

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l E. Morale

- Yes, the floor landing and the step, 2 Α.
- 3 yes.
- And number four would be steps, correct? 4 0.
- 5 Α. Yes.
- And is that an apartment door; do you 6 Q.
- 7 know?
- 8 Α. No, that's not an apartment door.
- What is it, just a wall? Q.
- 10 Α. That's a wall, yes.
- 11 And you're referring to the top of the
- 12 photograph that's marked Plaintiff's 4?
- 13 MR. SHIN: With the exhibit tab
- 14 oriented to the right.
- 15 MS. WERBEL: Exhibit 4 with today's
- 16 date, but it was also marked Defendant's
- 17 A on April 27, 2016.
- 18 Now the only stairway is between the 0.
- second and third floor or is there another 19
- 20 stairway on the third floor?
- 21 There is a stairway from the ground
- 22 floor to the second and then you would have
- 23 to walk in the hallway and then you would
- 24 have to go up another stairs.
- 25 Q. To get to the third floor?

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And are all the steps you talked about 3
- from the ground floor to the third floor 4
- covered with this rubber tile? 5
- б The steps have stair threads.
- 7 landings have like a rubber mat, like tile
- 8 mat.
- 9 0. That's depicted in these photos?
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 So the steps have no type of covering on
- 12 them at all?
- 13 A. Stair threads. It's rubber. That's the
- 14 rubber stair threads.
- 15 Q. Is that the same as the rubber depicted
- 16 in these photos?
- 17 It looks different to me. It's a
- different kind. 18
- 19 Q. But is it rubber?
- 20 It's a rubber, yes, that's what I said.
- 21 Q. And does it cover the whole step?
- 22 Α. Yes.
- 23 And the rubber tiles depicted in these Q.
- 24 photos are different than the ones that cover
- 25 the stairs?

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-1 -	ه الناو	110101010

- 2 A. Yes.
- MS. WERBEL: You have photographs
- 4 here that have both stairs and landings.
- 5 Are they different colors?
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 7 Q. So what is the color of the rubber tiles
- 8 that cover the steps?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. Well, you said they're different colors.
- 11 How are they different?
- 12 A. Because that's what I see on the
- 13 picture.
- Q. What do you see that's different from
- 15 your observations, not from the pictures?
- 16 A. This is one, the stair thread is one
- 17 color and the stair landing is another color.
- 18 Q. I'm asking you what the different colors
- 19 are?
- MS. WERBEL: And he was pointing to
- 21 Plaintiff's Exhibit 3 at the time.
- 22 MR. LEWIS: I'm asking from his own
- 23 personal knowledge, not the photographs.
- Q. What were the two different colors of
- 25 the rubber tiles?

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 MS. WERBEL: In 2011.
- I don't recall from 2011, the colors. 3 Α.
- Well, were they two totally different 4
- 5 colors or different shades of orange?
- 6 From 2011 and this picture, I can't tell
- 7 you.
- 8 Not from this picture. From your own
- 9 recollection of inspection periodically?
- 10 I don't recall. That's my answer. I
- 11 don't recall.
- 12 Q. You have no recollection after all the
- 13 inspections?
- 14 Α. No, sir.
- 15 He has no recollection for a change. Do
- 16 you recognize what is in Exhibit 5?
- 17 MS. WERBEL: Marked Exhibit 5 with
- 18 today's date. Marked Defendant'S C on
- 19 April 27, 2016.
- 20 MR. LEWIS: Fine.
- The same stair threads and the same 21 Α.
- 22 landing.
- 23 Q. Between what floors, sir?
- A. I don't know. 24
- 25 Q. The five photos in front of you, could

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 you recognize whether any of them are between
- 3 the first and second or between the second
- 4 and third?
- 5 No, I can't. Α.
- 6 Let me let you look at number six. Do
- 7 you recognize what is in here?
- That's a door. 8 Α.
- 9 One of the apartment doors? 0.
- Α. 10 Yes.
- Do you know whether it's on the second 11
- 12 or third floor?
- 13 Looking at the picture it says 3B.
- 14 Q. Do you see it on the door?
- 15 Yes, it says 3B on the door. Α.
- 16 And do you know the tenant back then in
- 17 that apartment?
- 18 Α. Was there a tenant there? I can't tell
- 19 you. I don't know.
- 20 You don't know who lived there before Q.
- 21 that day?
- 22 I wouldn't even know if somebody was
- 23 living there. I don't know.
- 24 Q. Now in front of this door, does it show
- 25 some carpeting or some type of tile in

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 Exhibit 6?
- 3 I can't tell from this picture, no.
- 4 I will show you what has been marked a
- 5 Defendant's exhibit marked on 4/27/16.
- you recognize what is in that picture? 6
- 7 MS. WERBEL: It was marked
- 8 Defendant's Exhibit D.
- 9 MR. LEWIS: Okay.
- 10 Α. It's the same as the last picture, yes.
- 11 Same apartment? Q.
- 12 Α. Yes.
- 13 And could you tell if there is something
- 14 in front of the door matting or tile or
- something like that? 15
- 16 From this picture, no.
- 17 And in your inspections prior to that
- date, did you ever see any of these rubber 18
- 19 orange tiles lifted up off the ground?
- 20 Α. No, I never seen nothing.
- 21 A corner, an edge, no? Q.
- 22 Α. No.
- 23 Do you remember Basic or Irgang ever
- 24 receiving a complaint about the rubber tile
- 25 on any of the steps --

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. I don't recall.
- 3 Q. -- being lifted off the ground
- 4 partially?
- 5 A. I don't recall, no.
- 6 Q. Do you remember hearing of any accident
- 7 occurring of tenants walking up or down those
- 8 stairs prior to this date we are talking
- 9 about?
- 10 A. I don't recall.
- 11 Q. Is there anybody in particular that an
- 12 accident would be reported to?
- 13 A. Is there a what? I'm sorry.
- 14 Q. Would any possible accident involving
- 15 the steps be reported to management or to
- 16 Irgang?
- 17 A. I don't recall, no.
- 18 Q. You don't know who it would be reported
- 19 to?
- 20 A. If there was something?
- MS. WERBEL: He is asking if someone
- 22 had an accident, who would they report
- 23 it to.
- 24 A. To the caseworker, yes.
- Q. And you have no recollection of a

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 caseworker advising you of an accident going
- 3 up or down those steps?
- 4 A. No, I don't.
- 5 I think you said that if you're a tenant
- 6 there on the second or third floor, you have
- to go to the landing which had these orange
- tiles, correct? 8
- 9 A. At the end of each steps there is a
- 10 landing, yes.
- 11 Q. And these were where the orange tiles
- 12 were?
- 13 A. Yes.
- And then you said to go to the 14
- 15 apartment, you walked down the hallway,
- 16 correct?
- 17 You would step on to the hallway.
- 18 And how much of a distance are we
- 19 talking about from the landing to the
- 20 hallway?
- I don't know. 21 Α.
- 22 Q. More than three feet, less?
- 23 Α. I don't know. You step from one step,
- 24 you step into the hallway.
- 25 Q. And how far are from you to the closest

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 apartment once you to that?
- 3 A. I'm not -- I can't recall.
- 4 Q. Ten feet?
- 5 A. I can't recall.
- 6 Q. Five feet?
- 7 A. I can't recall.
- 8 Q. Three feet? More than three feet?
- 9 A. I can't recall.
- 10 Q. So you have no recollection even though
- 11 you inspected that building periodically for
- 12 the year before, correct?
- 13 MR. SHIN: Note my objection.
- 14 A. I don't recall.
- 15 Q. Well, what was the reason for your
- 16 inspections during this prior year? Were you
- 17 checking for defects in the hallways or
- 18 stairway?
- 19 A. Yes, we do inspections, visual
- 20 inspections to make sure the buildings and
- 21 the apartments are safe, yes.
- 22 Q. So during these inspections you check in
- 23 the apartments and the hallways and
- 24 stairways, correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 E. Morales
- Q. Were you the only one that did that or
- 3 other people did that?
- 4 A. Case managers do it as well, yes.
- 5 Q. And these aren't case managers that work
- 6 for your company?
- 7 A. Yes, they are.
- 8 Q. They aren't social workers?
- 9 A. They're case managers that work for
- 10 Acacia.
- 11 Q. And they're assigned to --
- 12 A. Every case worker is assigned a certain
- 13 amount of clients.
- 14 Q. How many, generally?
- 15 A. I don't know. That's not my department.
- 16 Q. How many caseworkers were there for the
- 17 building back then?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 Q. How many apartments were there in the
- 20 building, four?
- 21 A. In that building?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. Seven.
- Q. How many?
- 25 A. Four.

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 Q. Four, so there would be a minimum of at
- 3 least four caseworkers assigned to that
- 4 building?
- 5 Ά. I don't know.
- 6 Q. What would the caseworkers do?
- 7 Α. If what? I'm not understanding.
- 8 What did they do? What was their job Ο.
- 9 responsibilities?
- Responsibilities is to guide clients to 10
- 11 get on their feet and get them into permanent
- 12 housing.
- 13 Q. Okay, I thought you said the caseworkers
- 14 were there to report problems with the inside
- 15 of the apartment and the hallways and
- 16 stairways?
- 17 MS. WERBEL: Objection to your
- characterization as to what he said. 18
- 19 MR. LEWIS: Okay, let me withdraw
- 20 it.
- 21 Were they assigned to look for defects
- 22 in the apartment and the hallways and
- 23 stairways? Was that part of their job?
- 24 Α. Yes.
- If they saw problems, they would report 25

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 it to Basic, correct?
- 3 To the maintenance department, yes.
- O. At Basic?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And the maintenance department was
- located where again, sir? I think you said
- it, but I will ask again. 8
- 9 The what? Α.
- 10 Q. Where was the maintenance department
- 11 located?
- A. 819 East 178th Street. 12
- 13 And did they keep records of what the
- caseworkers told them about the conditions of 14
- 15 the interior or exterior of the apartment?
- 16 We get an e-mail, yes. Α.
- 17 And those e-mails are no longer in
- 18 existence, correct?
- 19 Α. No.
- 20 Do you know if the tenants were given
- 21 social workers?
- 22 I know they got case managers. That I
- 23 do know. -
- 24 Q. And the money for these case managers
- 25 was paid by Basic, correct?

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- E. Morales 1
- I don't know anything about money. 2 Α.
- Well, the caseworkers, were they full 3
- time?
- 5 Α. Yes.
- 6 And they would try and get the family
- 7 back on their feet, to gain employment,
- correct?
- 9 Α. Yes.
- And they would also report any defective 10
- 11 conditions in the apartment or on the
- 12 stairways or hallways, correct?
- 13 Α. Yes, they did inspections.
- 14 Do you know how often they inspected the
- 15 premises?
- 16 A. Excuse me?
- 17 Q. How often they inspected the premises?
- 18 It varies. Α.
- Not as often as you did? 19 Ο.
- 20 It varies. It could be more. It could
- 21 be less. It depends on the clients and that
- 22 is above my --
- 23 Do you ever remember any of the
- 24 caseworkers making complaints about the
- 25 interior of the apartment in the year before?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 MS. WERBEL: In this building?
- 3 MR. LEWIS: Yes, of course.
- 4 No, I don't recall.
- 5 And no complaints about the stairways or
- 6 hallways in this one year period in this
- 7 building?
- 8 I don't recall, no.
- 9 And you never heard of anyone tripping
- 10 over a lifted orange floor tile?
- 1.1 A. I don't recall, no.
- 12 Q. You did or you don't recall if you did?
- 13 A. I don't recall.
- 14 Q. So you're saying you might have heard
- 15 it, but you don't remember?
- I don't recall nobody calling me, no. 16
- 17 On the floors, were there any closed
- 18 circuit cameras?
- 19 A. Are there any cameras?
- 20 Q. Closed circuit cameras?
- 21 Α. In the facility? No.
- 22 MR. LEWIS: That will do it for me.
- 23 EXAMINATION BY
- 24 MR. SHIN:
- 25 Q. Good morning, Mr. Morales?

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 A. Good morning, young man.
- 3 Q. My name is John Shin. I represent the
- 4 Defendants, Irgang, the group. I will have
- 5 some follow-up questions for you. Before
- 6 this deposition started, did you look at any
- 7 papers, documents, photographs, anything,
- 8 whatsoever, to help prepare you for the
- 9 questions that you received today?
- 10 A. I saw the photos.
- 11 Q. Other than photos, did you look at
- 12 anything else?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. I take it you're a W2 employee?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And back in October of 2011 you were a
- 17 W2 employee?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So at the end of the year you got a W2
- 20 form showing how much you were paid?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Who paid you in 2011?
- 23 A. Acacia.
- Q. Not Basics?
- 25 A. To me it's the same thing, so I can't

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 recall whether it was.
- 3 Q. I don't want you to guess. So back in
- 4 2011, does your W2 say you were paid by
- 5 Acacia or Basics or Acacia/Basics?
- 6 A. Basics Acacia.
- 7 Q. Both?
- 8 A. It's all one because at one time we was
- 9 Basics and then we transitioned into Acacia.
- 10 Q. So at 2011 your W2 form had both Basics
- 11 and Acacia printed on it?
- 12 A. It was either one or the other.
- 13 Q. And do you know which one it was back
- 14 then?
- 15 A. I can't recall that to be honest with
- 16 you.
- Q. Do you know what it was now in let's say
- 18 your pay stub from 2015, who paid you?
- 19 A. It says Acacia.
- Q. That you're sure of?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Is there an elevator in this building at
- 23 125th Street?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. You mentioned randomly picked buildings

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 for inspection. Would you still inspect
- 3 every building at least once a week that you
- 4 were responsible for?
- 5 MS. WERBEL: What do you mean by
- 6 "would you still"? You're talking about
- 7 today?
- MR. SHIN: Back in October 2011. 8
- 9 Would I still what?
- 10 Q. At some point by the end of the week
- 11 would you visit every building that you were
- 12 responsible for at least once?
- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 And Basics Acacia is only in the
- 15 business of operating homeless shelters?
- 16 What I'm responsible for, yes. Α.
- 17 Do Basics Acacia collect rent from the Ο.
- 18 people in the building that are not part of
- 19 the shelter program?
- 20 Α. I don't know that.
- 21 Do Basics Acacia have an agreement to
- receive funding from the City of New York? 22
- 23 Α. I don't know.
- 24 How about the State of New York, does
- 25 Basics Acacia receive funding from the State?

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- 1 E. Morales
- A. I don't know. 2
- 3 MS, WERBEL: He is in the
- 4 maintenance department.
- 5 A. Yeah, all I know is they pay me.
- б Understood. I just want to be clear on
- 7 the record. Do you know who Raul Russi is?
- 8 It's the CEO of the company.
- 9 Have you ever seen anything signed by O.
- 10 him?
- 11 Α. E-mails maybe. That's it.
- 12 0. Would you recognize what his signature
- 1.3 looks like?
- 14 Α. No.
- Up until you moved to 555 Hutchinson 15
- 16 River Parkway, you still handled the building
- 17 known as 779 East 125th?
- 18 Α. Yes.
- 19 And once you went to the Hutchinson
- 20 River Parkway location you were no longer
- 21 part of that building?
- 22 Α. No.
- Do you supervise a custodial staff? 23
- 24 MS. WERBEL: Now or then?
- 25 MR. SHIN: Back in October 2011,

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 thank you.
- 3 Α. No.
- Is there a custodial staff for the 125th
- 5 Street building?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Is there a staff either employed by
- 8 Basics or Acacia that routinely sweeps the
- 9 public areas?
- 10 A. From my understanding, yes, now there
- 11 is.
- 12 Q. What about back in October 2011?
- 13 Α. No, they had someone else doing it.
- 14 Q. Who was doing it then?
- 15 Α. Irgang has guys doing it.
- 16 Q. Sweeping?
- 17 Α. Yeah, and mopping.
- 18 What about snow and ice on the public
- 19 sidewalk back in October 2011, who was doing
- 20 that?
- 21 A. Irgang's guys.
- 22 Q. And now it's Acacia?
- A. Yes. 23
- So if I understand it, the client or 24
- 25 tenant complains to the caseworker about

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 something in the building, the caseworker
- 3 then calls you?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And then you determine who to call next?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And if you determine it's structural you
- 8 will call Irgang?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. What is an example of something
- 11 structural? You mentioned ceiling collapses?
- 12 A. Yes, ceiling, major plumbing issue, AC
- 13 units, because most his buildings are like,
- 14 the AC units that they're responsible for,
- 15 that is in the ceiling and stuff. If there
- 16 is anything in the hallways that's
- 17 structural, he is responsible for that as
- 18 well.
- 19 Q. What is the structural condition of the
- 20 hallway?
- 21 A. A ceiling, something broken.
- Q. What about the ceramic tiles you were
- 23 talking about?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. That should be handled by Irgang as

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 well?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So if there was a cracked or missing
- 5 tile, Irgang would deal with that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Does Irgang have an office at the 125th
- 8 Street location?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Does Irgang have any employees at the
- 11 125th Street location?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Have you ever seen Mark Irgang at the
- 14 125th Street location?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. For what?
- 17 A. Just randomly, probably doing
- 18 inspections and following up, I guess. I'm
- 19 not sure.
- 20 Q. You just said, "guess." Are you
- 21 assuming that's what he was there for?
- 22 A. Yeah. I wouldn't know. He will just be
- 23 there and I will just see him, yes.
- Q. So there was no planned meetings for you
- 25 and Mark Irgang?

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- 1. E. Morales
- 2 À. No.
- If you referred something to Mark
- Irgang, would you write it down? 4
- 5 Α. No.
- Would you put it in an e-mail?
- 7 Α. No.
- 8 Would you just call Mark Irgang? Ο.
- 9 Α. Yes.
- 10 Q. If the caseworker notified you, it's
- 11 only by e-mail?
- 12 Α. Yes.
- 13 Q. And the e-mail retention policy back in
- 14 2011 was what, e-mails be kept one year, more
- 15 than one year?
- 16 Α. Well, my e-mails, I delete my e-mails,
- 17 yes.
- 18 Do you know if the company keeps the
- 19 e-mails?
- 20 I don't know about that. Α.
- 21 Does anyone print these e-mails to
- 22 record them or save them in a tenant file?
- 23 A. I don't know.
- 24 The 818 East 178th Street location is
- 25 the maintenance office?

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- E. Morales 1
- 819 East 178th Street, yes. 2 Α.
- 3 O. And is that an Acacia or Basic's
- office --4
- 5 MS. WERBEL: At what point in time?
- Q. -- or something else, back in October 6
- 7 2011?
- Basics. 8 Α.
- 9 Ο. And now it's Acacia or something else?
- 10 A. Yeah, it's Acacia.
- Do you know if the caseworkers have any 1.1 Ο.
- contact with Irgang, any direct contact with 12
- 13 Irganq?
- 1.4 I wouldn't know, no.
- Does Basics or Acacia have records as to 15
- 16 who was the assigned caseworker at any given
- 17 time?
- 18 They should have, yes.
- So is there a record that Basics Acacia 19
- has to identify the caseworker for a tenant 20
- 21 in a particular apartment in October 2011?
- 22 They should have.
- MR. SHIN: Okay, I will leave a 23
- 24 blank in the transcript and I'll follow
- 25 up in writing for the identity of Ms.

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1	E. Morales
2	Diaz-Pascall's caseworker back at the
3	time of the accident.
4	A
5	Q. And the caseworker is an employee of
6	Basics or Acacia?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. Were you asked to look for any
9	complaints that were referred to Mark Irgang?
10	A. No.
11	Q. Do you know what records the caseworkers
12	keep for the clients?
13	A. No.
14	Q. Are the caseworkers independent
15	contractors or full-time employees with
16	Basics or Acacia?
17	A. They're full-time employees, yes.
18	Q. Do you know if they get a W2 form also?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. They do?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Have you heard of something called a
23	tenant file?

24 A. Tenant file, no.

Q. Do you know if Basics or Acacia

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- 1 E. Morales
- 2 maintains a folder for each apartment?
- 3 A. A chart, they have charts.
- 4 MS. WERBEL: You're talking about
- 5 the apartment or the tenant in the
- 6 apartment?
- 7 MR. SHIN: Right now it's just the
- 8 apartment.
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Do they have a separate file for the
- 11 tenants in the apartment?
- 12 A. They're just clients. They're just
- 13 responsible for the clients.
- 14 Q. And the client is the occupant of the
- 15 apartment?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Is there a separate agreement between
- 18 the client and Basics Acacia?
- 19 A. That I'm not sure.
- 20 Q. You mentioned your inspections. Do you
- 21 bring a checklist with you?
- 22 A. We bring an inspection form, yes.
- Q. When do you fill out the form?
- 24 A. At the conclusion of every inspection.
- 25 Q. Do you keep it?

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 Α. Not for long.
- 3 How long do you keep it? 0.
- 4 We probably keep it for like a couple
- years, that's it. 5
- 6 So the forms back in 2011 don't exist?
- 7 Α. No.
- 8 Did any of the clients have direct
- contact with you back in October 2011?
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 And if they see you in the building and
- 12 they have something that needs to be
- 13 addressed will they talk to you directly?
- 14 They will call me, yes.
- 15 How do you handle that? Do you tell
- 16 them "No, you got to go back to your
- 17 caseworker?"
- 18 No, we address the issue, as it's
- 19 called. We address it as the company, yes.
- 20 Do you write it down as well? Ο.
- 21 Α. Yes.
- 22 0. Do you keep that writing for any period
- of time? 23
- 24 Maybe a year, two years. It's just a
- 25 paper trail that we keep. We don't keep it

24

25

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1	E. Morales
2	for long because we are so big right now it's
3	too much paper.
4	Q. So any papers in 2011, do they exist?
5	A. No.
6	Q. Does Acacia and Basics have clients
7	outside of New York State?
8	A. Not that I know of, no.
9	MR. SHIN: All right, I don't have
10	anything further. I just reserve my
11	rights to a deposition of the caseworker
12	assigned to the Plaintiff at the time of
13	the accident.
14	MS. WERBEL: I think you're going to
15	need an authorization from Plaintiff to
16	get the case file because there could be
17	medical records in there.
18	MR. SHIN: Understood.
19	MS. WERBEL: So we can't just hand
20	it over.
21	MR. SHIN: Okay, but at least the
22	identity though and whether he or she is
23	still employed by Basics Acacia.

MS. WERBEL: That we can find out.

MR. SHIN: Thank you. I will put it

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- E. Morales 1
- 2 all in writing.
- 3 EXAMINATION BY
- 4 MR. LEWIS:
- Q. Let me do a brief follow up. You said
- 6 you looked at some photos before you came in
- 7 here today?
- Excuse me?
- Q. You said you looked at some photos
- before you came here today, correct? 10
- 11 Α. Yes.
- 12 Q. Are the photos contained in these
- 13 exhibits or was there other photos?
- 14 No, the same photos.
- 15 Q. Problems with the steps between the
- first and second floor and the second and 16
- 17 third floor, are those considered structural
- 18 problems?
- MS. WERBEL: Can I hear that 19
- question again? 20
- 21 (Whereupon, the record was read back
- 22 by the court reporter.)
- 23 MR. SHIN: Note my objection to
- 24 form.
- 25 MS. WERBEL: Note mine, too. If you

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E. Morales 1 2 can answer that. A. I don't think so, no. 3 4 Q. If any one of these rubber orange tiles 5 is lifting up on the landing, is that 6 considered a structural problem? 7 A. No. Q. Did a tenant, while you were inspecting, 8 9 ever tell you about a problem with a step or 10 stairway? Α. 11 No. 12 Q. Did they ever tell you that the orange 13 tile on the landing had lifted up? 14 A. No. 15 MR. LEWIS: Okay, that's it. 16 MR. SHIN: Thank you, sir. 17 (Time noted: 11:50 a.m.) 18 19 20 EDWIN MORALES 21 Subscribed and sworn to before me 22 this _____, day of _____, 2017. 23 24 25 NOTARY PUBLIC

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71 1 2 CERTIFICATE 3 STATE OF NEW YORK : SS.: 5 COUNTY OF QUEENS 6 7 8 I, RENEE M. DECARLOS, a Notary Public 9 for and within the State of New York, do 10 hereby certify: 11 That the witness whose examination is 12 hereinbefore set forth was duly sworn and 13 that such examination is a true record of the 14 testimony given by that witness. 15 I further certify that I am not related 16 to any of the parties to this action by blood 17 or by marriage and that I am in no way 18 interested in the outcome of this matter. 19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereun my hand this 13th day of January 2017 20 21 22 23 RENEE M. DECARLOS 24

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